

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for his thoughtful consideration of the amendments and remarks submitted with the amendment filed September 14, 2001.

Given the posture of this application and to expedite prosecution, Applicants have elected to accept claims 30 and 39, which the Examiner indicated to be allowable if amended to include the limitations of independent claim 1 and the intermediate claims.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claims 30 and 25. Therefore claim 1 and all pending dependent claims are patentable over the cited art. Claim 39 has been amended to include the limitations of independent claim 1 and dependent claim 38. Claim 39 is now independent. It is likewise allowable, as indicated in the final office action.

Applicants reserve the right to prosecute claims comparable in scope to previous claim 1 and the various dependent claims pending prior to this response.

Applicants believe that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,

BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS, LLP



Jeffrey K. Weaver
Reg. No. 31,314

P.O. Box 778
Berkeley, CA 94704-0778
(510) 843-6200